

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 04287 211314Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 NEA-10 EUR-12
AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08
FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00
USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 /141 W
-----070862 211314Z /53

P 211305Z MAR 78
FM US MISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7434
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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USMTN

ACTION STR PASS ELECTRICALLY

STR PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD
SUBJECT: ASEAN AND THE MTN

1. USDEL (GRAEF, WALLAR, MIMS) MET WITH ASEAN COUNTRY REPS
ON MARCH 16 TO DISCUSS MTN'S AND THE ASEAN INVITATION TO
MEET WITH THE SENIOR TRADE OFFICIALS (STO) GROUP IN
SINGAPORE ON APRIL 3 AND 4.

2. USDEL CONFIRMED THAT USMTN DEL TEAM, ASSISTED BY
ONE OR MORE PEOPLE FROM WASHINGTON, WOULD WELCOME THE
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CHANCE TO MEET WITH THE STO IN SINGAPORE. OUR INTERLOCA-
TORS ALSO RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF FOLLOW-UP BILATERAL
MEETINGS WITH INDIVIDUAL ASEAN COUNTRIES IN CAPITALS.
(KL - APRIL 7-8, SINGAPORE - APRIL 5-6, WERE THE ONLY
SPECIFIC DATES MENTIONED.) MTN DEL RESPONDED THAT DUE TO
PACE OF THE MTN AND AMBASSADOR STRAUSS' VISIT TO GENEVA
ON APRIL 10, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE U.S. TEAM

TO SPEND MORE THAN ONE WEEK AWAY FROM GENEVA. ANY SUCH BILATERALS COULD PROBABLY BE CARRIED OUT SIMULTANEOUSLY BY SPLITTING THE U.S. TEAM. WE ALSO INDICATED THAT TRAVEL TO CAPITALS AT THIS POINT IN THE MTN COULD ONLY BE JUSTIFIED BY SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS GIVEN LIMITATIONS ON TRAVEL AND IF NECESSARY MIGHT BETTER BE DELAYED TO A MORE DECISIVE STAGE OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. WE THEREFORE URGED THE ASEANS TO INFORM U.S. WHICH COUNTRIES ARE INTERESTED IN FOLLOW-UP BILATERALS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO EARLIER ASEAN REQUEST, USDEL MADE A PRESENTATION ON ITS POSITIONS AND THE STATE OF PLAY ON THE VARIOUS NONTARIFF MEASURE CODES UNDER NEGOTIATION (LICENSING, CUSTOMS VALUATION, STANDARDS, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, AND SUBSIDIES/COUNTERVAIL.) USDEL OUTLINED U.S. OBJECTIVES IN EACH CODE AND HOW LDC'S WOULD BENEFIT FROM THEM. WE INDICATED THAT U.S. WAS SEEKING MORE SPECIFIC LDC SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT AND IDENTIFIED POSITIONS TAKEN BY LDC'S WHICH WERE OUT OF THE BALLPARK. ON THE ASEAN SIDE, THE USUAL DEMANDS FOR SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT WERE LOW-KEYED, WITH BULK OF DISCUSSION FOCUSING ON OTHER OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF DRAFT CODES. STANDARDS, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AND LICENSING ATTRACTED THE MOST INTEREST. ON CUSTOMS VALUATION, ASEAN REPRESENTATIVES WERE SKEPTICAL OF MODIFYING THEIR OWN SYSTEMS UNLESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE NEW VALUATION RULES WOULD MEET THE APPROVAL OF THE CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL. INTEREST WAS ALSO SHOWN REGARDING RULES ON THIRD COUNTRY SUBSIDIZATION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE SUBSIDIES/CVD NEGOTIATIONS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO ASEAN QUERIES U.S. DEL INDICATED THAT EXPECTED REFINEMENT OF U.S. MARKET ACCESS REQUESTS, AND THE U.S. RESPONSE TO ASEAN REQUESTS IN GROUP AGRICULTURE WERE IN LAST STAGES OF WASHINGTON AGENCY CLEARANCE AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE THE WEEK OF MARCH 20.

5. DRAFTED BY MIMS. MCDONALD

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NNN

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